

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CLEVELAND, OHIO
DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Special Investigation Unit
DIST. ZONE

August 24, 1977

August 1977

EXAMINED BY _____ RANK _____

FROM Carl I. Delau, Captain to John Kukula, Dep. Inspector
SUBJECT Smut Shop Outlets, contribution of these outlets to the increased crime rate in the census tract areas of the smut shops.
COPIES TO Chief's Office, Law Department, Bureau of Inspections.

Sir:

During the National Conference on the Blight of Obscenity which was held in Cleveland, Ohio on July 28-29, 1977, Captain Carl I. Delau of the Cleveland Police Department participated in a panel discussion which was moderated by Bruce Taylor, Assistant Law Director of the City of Cleveland. The subject covered was titled as the "The Impact of Obscenity Upon the Total Community" and it was during this discussion that Captain Delau gave a talk in which he readily pointed out that areas which housed pornography shops had a much higher crime rate than other areas of the city. Comments from his talk and statistics which he provided are as follows.

Experienced Detectives during their many investigations have had the occasions to gain personal knowledge of the impact of pornography and its contribution to crime, in particular rapes and sex offenses. Three extremely offensive crimes which are well known to this department are briefly described as follows.

MURDER: An eight year old female was sexually assaulted and murdered with her body left in a county park. The 24 year old male assailant was apprehended and during the investigation it was found that the assailant was an avid reader of hard core pornography and witnesses indicated that within several hours he was at a smut shop viewing magazines which showed juvenile males and females in nude poses.

RAPES: After a series of rapes, the assailant was found to be a 14 year old male. Repeating as stated in the official police report, "The suspect stated that he had gotten some of his ideas for the particular acts used in her rape (Cunnilingus, oral sodomy) from viewing same in a pornography magazine. Suspect further stated to Detectives that he had viewed hard core movies in a theater, area of E. 105 St. and Euclid Ave.

SEX OFFENSES: Husband and wife, ages 33 and 26 have been charged with a number of various sex offenses on three children of one family, boy, age 10, boy, age 11 and girl, age 12. The husband had a large collection of hard core movies and magazines and had taken photographs of the children involved in their sex relations.

Knowledge gained from our routine investigation indicated a very close correlation between many types of crimes and the ever increasing exposure of hard core magazines and movies. At the request of Bruce Taylor, the Police Department made use of the Data Processing Unit and obtained crime statistics for the entire city. The facts that were obtained verified what knowledgeable police officers had always been aware of and that is that the incident of crime is much greater in areas where smut outlets are located. Figures as related in this report were obtained on a census tract basis, this being the smallest unit of measurement into which the geographical area of Cleveland is divided. The 1970 census survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau divided the City of Cleveland into 204 equally divided census tracts. The figures provided below are related to census tracts.

Cleveland has a total of 26 smut outlets which deal in hard core pornography which consist of 8 movie houses and 18 are book stores with peep shows included at these spots. These 26 outlets are located in 15 census tracts out of the 204 census tracts in the city, not by choice of the operators and not by any zoning or legislative restrictions.

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During 1976, the City of Cleveland had a 8.1% reduction in crime, this as compared to 1975. Of the 15 census tracts that contain the pornography outlets, 12 either rose in crime rankings or remained the same.

The Two highest ranking census tracts in crime have a total of eight (8) pornography outlets within the boundaries of these two tracts. These are the Two highest of the total 20+ census tracts in the city.

The top Five census tracts in crime contain a total of 12 of the 26 pornography outlets.

Consideration was given to two of the most offensive crimes which are recorded by the Data Processing Unit and their effects and relationship to porno outlets, Robberies and Rapes.

In 1976 there were a total of 5,455 Robberies in the City of Cleveland, this is an average of 20.5 robberies per census tract. In the 15 census tracts which contain pornography outlets there were a total of 671 robberies for an average of nearly 44.5 robberies per census tract, double the city wide average.

One census tract which contains Five pornography outlets and only a population of 750 persons had a total of 176 robberies taking place in same. In the largest census tract in the city, population of 13,587 with no pornography outlets, there were only 14 robberies in 1976.

In four other census tracts which contain a total of 12 pornography outlets and in which there is a total population of 5,210 persons residing, there were a total of 413 robberies, an average of 103 robberies per tract, this being five times the city wide average.

Rapes: In 1976 there were a total of 498 rapes reported in the City of Cleveland. This figures out to an average of 2.4 rapes per census tract. In the 15 tracts that contain all of the pornography outlets, the rate for rapes is nearly double.

Four census tracts which contain a total of Ten (10) pornography outlets, the average rate for rapes is 8.8 per tract which is four times the average in the city.

Out of the top Three tracts which rape is the highest, two of these tracts contain pornography outlets while the third borders on a tract which contains two pornography outlets. In these Three tracts, there were a total of 41 rapes reported, this is near an average of 14 rapes per census tract, nearly seven times the average for the city.

Close scrutiny of the figures from the Data Processing Unit on any and every phase of the degree of crime as recorded by census tracts indicates a much higher crime rate where the pornography outlets are located. The above had been obtained on an honest survey which figures cannot be disputed.